

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /115 W

----- 031580

R 071032Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8568

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SCUL, SF

SUBJ: AFTERMATH OF ATTACK ON USSALEP

REF: PRETORIA 3185

1. MINDEFENSE P.W. BOTHA'S LUDICROUS ALLEGATION THAT USSALEP IS TIED TO COUNCIL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, WHICH HE SAID HAS SAME GOAL AS "INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM", MAY HARM BOTHA MORE THAN USSALEP. HE HAS BEEN SHARPLY ATTACKED BY ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS, WHICH HAS MADE MOST OF NONSENSICAL ASPECTS OF HIS REMARKS. (FYI: PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE HAS BEEN HIGHLY SARCASTIC ARTICLE BY ARGUS NEWSPAPERS' WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT KEN OWEN. HE WRITES THAT THE "CONGRESSMAN JOHN HARRY" BOTHA REFERRED TO IS JACK RARICK OF LOUISIANA, WHOM OWEN SAYS SPEAKS FOR "RIGHT-WING LUNATIC FRINGE IN AMERICA." END FYI.)

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2. HOWEVER, OF MORE SIGNIFICANCE HAS BEEN RESPONSE OF AFRIKAANS

NEWSPAPERS. NONE HAS AGREED IN ANY WAY WITH BOTHA'S ATTACK ON USSALEP, AND USSALEP BOARD CHAIRMAN DAVID DE VILLIERS' REPUDIATION OF BOTHA'S STATEMENT HAS BEEN GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE. MOREOVER, IN EDITORIAL SEPT 6 DIE VADERLAND ASKED THAT THE MATTER BE CLEARED UP AND SAID IT APPEARED THAT DE VILLIERS' CONTRADICTION OF BOTHA WAS MORE CONVINCING THAN BOTH'S "VAGUE ACCUSATIONS." DIE TRANSVALER REPORTS THAT BOTHA'S STATEMENT AND ITS AFTERMATH HAVE PRECIPITATED A CLASH AT HIGHEST LEVEL IN CAPE NATIONAL PARTY.

3. USSALEP DIRECTOR WILLEM GROBLER TELLS US HE VERY PLEASED BY PRESS TREATMENT OF STORY. ALTHOUGH HE UNHAPPY AT PROSPECT THAT THE ISSUE WILL BE USED AS POLITICAL FOOTBALL, HE BELIEVES USSALEP NOW IN NO DANGER.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, SCUL, SF, USSALEP, COUNCIL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, (BOTH, P W)
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Type: TE
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